

Appln. No.: 09/972,145
Amendment dated June 27, 2007
Reply to Office Action of December 27, 2006

Amendment to the Title:

Please amend the Title as follows:

~~Muniflow-----Cash Management & Investment Services for Municipalities, School Districts and~~
~~Authorities, and Other Entities~~System

Amendment to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0001] beginning on page 1 as follows:

[0001] ~~Not Applicable~~ This application claims priority to provisional U.S. Application Ser. No. 60/238,114, filed October 6, 2000.

Please amend paragraphs [0005]-[0007] beginning on page 1 as follows:

[0005] As noted in FIG. 23, municipalities have information provided to them on the revenues and expenditures of ~~their~~ their funds. However, this document alone is not sufficient to solely maximize invested dollars and increase interest earnings. It has been difficult to maximize the interest income on a government's available cash heretofore ~~without the process and tools of this invention~~ Muniflow®.

[0006] FIG. 23 is a prior art tool that has typically been used to gauge a municipality's cash flow. This invention has enhanced this cash flow statement by adding "note boxes" designed to allow the user to find specific dates of large cash payouts. Other tools have also been added that help the user to invest cash as soon as possible and keep it invested as long as possible as well as tools to monitor the percent of all available dollars that are invested. The goal is to increase the percent of total ~~available~~ available dollars invested, maximizing the use of ~~available~~ available funds and increasing interest earnings.

[0007] Both the Cash Budgeting Model and the Cash Flow Statement used by governments prior to this invention provided governments with the internal perspective of their cash position. However, actual available cash depends on how the financial institutions ~~who~~ that hold the money see the in- and out-flow of money. This flow is generally different than the government perspective for one main reason. In accounting, governments consider money as expended or received on the day the checks or bills (tax notices) are cut or approved. However, from the bank perspective, money is not ever spent or received until the check is cashed or actually deposited.

Based on the type of expenditures or ~~receipts~~receipts, the distance to the address where checks are mailed, and the typical amount of time the recipient holds a check all add to Float--the time difference from when the check is actually written to when the cash is actually taken from or credited to the government account.

Please amend paragraph [0011] beginning on page 2 as follows:

[0011] A process of increasing the dollars invested leading to increased interest earnings. Each part of this process is important to the determination of investable dollars or the maximizing of rates available on those dollars invested. Historic analysis of cash flow and bank statements allows for projection of future cash levels, cash needs and cash receipts. Continuous monitoring and updating of historic analysis provides current information on ~~available~~available dollars for investing. Market projections provide the means to overlay what they market has and will have available with the cash needs of the entity. A competitive bidding process provides a means to determine the highest rate ~~available~~available that day for the investment vehicle chosen. Strict use of documentation provides easy audit trail for interested parties.

Please amend paragraphs [0014]-[00037] beginning on page 3 as follows:

[0014] FIG. 1 ~~shows~~illustrates the overall Muniflow-Pa process in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0015] FIG. 2 is an ~~illustrative Enhanced-enhanced Cash-cash Flow-flow Statement-statement~~ showing the various parts of a ~~municipalities~~municipality's cash flow in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0016] FIG. 3 shows the data and graph of an ~~Account~~illustrative account Balance-balance analysis in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0017] FIG. 4 is an ~~illustrative Summary-summary~~ sheet of information found during the ~~Preliminary-preliminary Analysis-analysis~~ step in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0018] FIG. 5 shows ~~the-an~~ illustrative list of materials needed to provide a preliminary and ongoing analysis of a ~~municipalities-municipality's~~ cash flow in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0019] FIG. 6 is a sample letter municipalities send to financial institutions providing authorization ~~for Muniflow-to~~ gather information on behalf of the municipality in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0020] FIG. 7 is a sample fax bid sheet that is faxed to financial institutions inviting them to bid on a municipality's funds in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0021] FIG. 8 is a sample summary sheet ~~used by Muniflow-to~~ provide a summary of bid rates provided by various financial institutions in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0022] FIG. 9 is a sample ~~Weekly-weekly Cash-cash Balance-balance~~ sheet that reports to a municipality the balance on the day balances where checked in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention ~~through this invention~~

[0023] FIG. 10 is a sample of the meeting minutes that are kept each time an ~~Muniflow~~ employee meets with a municipality in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention ~~contracted with the inventor~~

[0024] FIG. 11 shows ~~the-an~~ illustrative ~~General-general Bidding-bidding Process-process~~ from the perspective of the client in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0025] FIG. 12 shows in graphical form the ~~maniflow~~ process, involved players and potential investment vehicles in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0026] FIG. 13 is a sample ~~Investment investment Proposal-proposal~~ providing investment recommendations that meet a municipalities cash flow as well as takes advantage of the best investment vehicles and terms offered in the market under current conditions in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0027] FIG. 14 shows in graphical form some investment vehicles and ~~thier~~ their advantages over time in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0028] FIG. 15 is a graphical form of the length (term) of an investment and the potential advantages under sample market conditions in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0029] FIG. 16 is a sample listing of account balances with graphs to show historic patterns that can be used to find investment vehicles that match the bank account pattern in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0030] FIG. 17 is a sample ~~Current-current Portfolio-portfolio~~ report provide monthly to municipalities in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0031] FIG. 18 is a sample ~~Current-current Maturity-maturity Schedule-schedule~~ report provided monthly to municipalities in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0032] FIG. 19 is a sample quarterly or annual report in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0033] FIG. 20 is a ~~Monthly-monthly~~ interest rate memo discussing interest rate outlook and general investment guidelines based on that outlook in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0034] FIG. 21 is an ~~illustrative Investment-investment Ratio-ratio Report-report~~ used to monitor the progress of increasing the amount of ~~avialable-available~~ cash that is invested in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0035] FIG. 22 is an ~~illustrative Sheet-sheet~~ used to report what is to be invested on a specific date, by which municipality, how long, what type of fund and what bank currently hold the money in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention.

[0036] FIG. 23 is a ~~Prior-prior~~ art depiction of a typical cash flow statement used by finance officers of municipalities.

[0037] FIG. 24 is a ~~Sample-sample Investment-investment Policy-policy and Procedures~~ procedures adopted-adopted by municipal legislated-legislatures and used to guide investments in accordance with at least one aspect of the present invention. ~~in the Muniflow process~~

Please amend paragraph [0052] beginning on page 5 as follows:

[0052] A process of increasing the dollars invested leading to increased interest earnings is described. Each part of this process is important to the determination of investable dollars or the maximizing of rates available on those dollars invested. Historic analysis of cash flow and bank statements allows for projection of future cash levels, cash needs and cash receipts. Continuous monitoring and updating of historic analysis provides current information on ~~available-available~~ dollars for investing. Market projections provide the means to overlay what they market has and will have available with the cash needs of the entity. A competitive bidding process provides a means to determine the highest rate ~~avialable-available~~ that day for the investment vehicle

chosen. Strict use of documentation provides easy audit trail for interested parties.

Please amend paragraph [0056] beginning on page 5 as follows:

[0056] Referring now to FIG.1, there is shown ~~the Muniflow~~ process with each individual step listed. The main steps of this process are:

Please amend paragraph [0059] beginning on page 5 as follows:

[0059] Create Account Balance Analysis 14 for General Fund Bank Accounts (see FIG. 3) which ~~determin~~determines the historic level of cash as per bank accounts.

Please amend paragraph [0102] beginning on page 7 as follows:

[0102] Provide Annual Health Check 36 by ~~receiving~~reviewing all pertinent legal documents and ensuring compliance as per state laws.

Please amend paragraph [0103] beginning on page 8 as follows:

[0103] FIG. 1 represents the overall ~~Muniflow~~ process. Each step in this figure will be discussed in more detail below with reference to FIGS. 2 to 24. ~~Muniflow~~The process starts with the Preliminary Analysis 10 to determine the degree of interest increase that may be derived through the invention. Preliminary Analysis 10 is done through data entry of materials listed in FIG. 5 into the templates as shown in FIGS. 2 and 3 creating Enhanced Cash Flow Statement 12 for the general fund and Account Balance Analysis 14 also for the general fund. The results of this data are summarized in FIG. 4.

Please amend paragraph [0105] beginning on page 8 as follows:

[0105] To fully provide this service, a complete set of Documentation 20 must be created. Each individual document of this step is shown in FIGS. 6 to 11. Creating these documents is simple. All parts in yellow need to be replaced with appropriate information pertaining to the client for whom ~~Muniflow~~the process is being provided. Minutes 24 (FIG. 10) for all discussions, whether on the telephone or in person, that pertain to the client are made. Bidding Flow Chart 24 is

tailored so that the municipality understands the process of daily bidding.

Please amend paragraph [0215] beginning on page 26 as follows:

[0215] FIG. 17 is a Current Portfolio Report. The software used to track client investments is able to create this report as of any date desired. These reports are typically ~~issues~~ issued as of the last business day of the month. Also from this report, the monthly fee associated with the ~~Muniflow~~ services is determined.

Please amend paragraph [0231] beginning on page 28 as follows:

[0231] Although the description above contains many specificities, these should not be construed as limiting the scope of the invention but as merely providing illustrations of some of the presently preferred embodiments of this invention. Various other embodiments and ramifications are possible within ~~its~~ its scope. For example, although this has been applied to municipalities, any organization, private, public, not-for-profit, or ~~anyone~~ else could also benefit from the ~~Muniflow~~ process. Cash flow and investments is inherent to any organization that ~~receives~~ receives and expends money as well as holds that money during the time it is ~~recieved~~ received and the time it is expended.